



Goodwin Elementary Announcements & Events

Notices for 12/05/14

- *Good News from Goodwin*
- *New Bus Guest Request Form*
- *Goodwin Café Goes Frozen December 19th*
- *Goodwin PTO 10 Reasons To Get Involved*

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Good News from Goodwin

ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2014

November just flew by for us with conferences and Thanksgiving. My first Goodwin Thanksgiving Feast was so joyful. Thank you to all of our parents who made it possible. I would also like to thank **Linda Spencer and Judy Campbell who did all the cooking and Cheryl Courteau and Dotty Kozelka who did the organizing.** So much preparation went into this day on their parts as well as all of our teachers. Additionally, we were very pleased with the excellent turnout at **parent conferences** last month. It was great to see all our parents. Teachers work many long hours in preparation for these evenings and look forward to meeting with our parents.

Other positive happenings at Goodwin include:

- Heritage Potluck Supper was a huge success. This was the largest turnout of family members in the history of the event. Thank you to **Nancy Titchen** for coordinating it on the school side with the planning of activities during the evening. Thank you as well to our PTO volunteer, who worked with Mrs. Titchen for such a successful time for our children. Moreover, I would like to once again thank Cheryl Courteau and Dotty Kozelka for their dedication to our school community in helping out at this event as well.
- Our Tressle Tree is up in our gym and the children are dedicated to improving their physical fitness, strength and coordination. **Mr. Dean** has once again outdone himself with engaging activities that are fun and yet meet the demands of being physically fit. He shows the children that being physically active can be enjoyed and therefore part of their everyday life to stay healthy.
- Our 4th graders came back from their trip to the Pequot Museum full of new information and excitement about their learning. Thank you to Mrs. Hodge and Mrs. Smith for their time and effort in planning and organizing this for educational experience for all children. A great time was had by all and our students represented Goodwin well as respectful, well-mannered children who were interested and excited about the Pequot history.

Time spent with family is a time for your children to grow as well. If you have some time, try the following some family teamwork activities:

Whether your youngsters are doing a group project or playing Hacky Sack, a team effort is needed. Everyone's a winner with these games that will show them team work in action.

Lower the Yardstick. Together hold a yardstick horizontally so that everyone has one finger underneath. Then lower the yardstick to the ground - but if anyone's finger drops away, you have to start over. See how many tries it takes to get the yardstick to the floor. This is hard (I could never do it). Remember to laugh about it and not get frustrated. The goal is to have fun and laugh together.

Pass the Ball. Sit in a circle with your feet out toward the center. Pass a ball around the circle - using only your feet. How many times can the ball go around before it drops on the ground?

I would like to wish all of our families a safe and relaxing holiday season.

Susan

Upcoming Events For December

12/8 Grade 3 field trip to Mansfield Public Library

12/10 PTO Meeting 6:30-7:30

12/11 Board of Ed Meeting 7:30

12/24-1/2 Winter Vacation

REMINDERS:

- Please be sure your child has the appropriate clothing to wear for the daily 30 minute recess: hat, mittens/gloves, warm coat, snow pants and boots are appropriate for December's blustery weather. We will have outdoor recess everyday as long as the temperature is above 15 degrees.
- Please remember to call the school office if your child is to be absent.
- Please send a note to the office at gnooffice@mansfieldct.org or to your child's teacher if you are picking them up during or at the end of the day.

Children who have cold/flu symptoms need to be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication, before returning to school.

Goodwin Elementary School

Email - gnooffice@mansfieldct.org

Phone – 860-429-6316

Fax – 860-487-5641

Bus Guest Request

This form is to be completed by the parent of a student who invite's a student guest to ride home on the bus with him/her.

Parents of the guest must also complete the form.

Please return form 2 days in advance of the actual invite date.

Student _____ (guest will go home with this student)

Guest name _____

Your child's Teacher/grade _____

Bus # _____ (bus # that both students will ride that day)

Date Guest is to ride the bus _____

Parent signature _____

I understand that both parties involved (parent receiving guest & guest parent) need to complete this form. If the office does not receive both forms the request will not be granted.

Goodwin Elementary School Café Goes

FROZEN

Friday December 19th

Take a journey to Arendelle and enjoy...

Soft Snowman Pizza Pretzels

or

Anna & Hans's Sandwich Packs

with

Elsa's Frozen Grapes

Sven's Snacks (Carrots & Celery)

Assorted Arendelle Fruits

Snowflake Cookie

Ice Cold Milk



*And if you find Olaf on your tray, you will receive a
free Frozen treat after your meal*

10 Reasons To Get Involved

1

Your child benefits.

When parents get connected to the school, children do better. Research shows children whose parents are involved get better grades, do better on tests, and have fewer discipline problems at school.

2

We make a difference.

Our mission is to create the kind of school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work—and so can our children. We provide support for teachers in and out of the classroom. We provide resources they need. We help create learning opportunities for children. And we try to build the kind of supportive, caring atmosphere that makes school fun.

3

We pledge to honor your time constraints.

People are often reluctant to participate because they're afraid they'll get pulled into a black hole of never-ending time commitment. That won't happen here. An hour or two a semester really makes a difference. And we won't push you to commit more than you want to or are able to.

4

We have fun.

Volunteer work shouldn't be drudgery. We accomplish a lot, and not everything we do is easy. But we know we're not balancing the national debt, either. We don't take ourselves too seriously, and we try to enjoy ourselves along the way whenever possible.

5

Meet nice people who share your concerns.

We all have a common bond. We care about creating the best possible educational experience for our children. We are neighbors and peers who share many of the same experiences. And many friendships have developed as a result of those connections.

6

There's a lot to be done.

These days, schools are asked to do more with less. Our help is needed more than ever to fill the gaps.

7

We can match jobs to your interests and abilities.

The work we do covers a broad spectrum: filing and photocopying, planning and executing events, writing and editing, working directly with children, managing a budget and cash flow, and lots more. We encourage creative ideas, and we're thrilled to have people take on tasks that meet their skills and interests.

8

We're welcoming.

To us, there are no "outsiders." We are people who have come together to work toward common goals. We couldn't be happier to have you join us in working toward those goals.

9

We're about parent involvement, not fundraising.

In these times of tight budgets, parent groups everywhere are having to fill in the gaps, and so are we. But our number one goal is to get more parents connected to the school. That's because more than 300 independent research studies show that building parent involvement in education is the number one thing we can do to create a great school and improve student performance.

10

This work is very rewarding.

It's seeing the bright light of learning sparkle in a child's eye. It's seeing the smile that shows we're making school a little more fun—and a child feel a little more comfortable in a learning environment. It's learning that test scores have risen and knowing we played a role. There are lots of rewards, both big and small, for those who get involved. Won't you join us?

Contact: gwwhaletales@gmail.com for more information on the Goodwin PTO!